

Solo Leveling

Art · DUBU (REDICE STUDIO)

Original Novel · Chugong

Story · h-goon

174



THE FLAMES OF
WAR ARE RAGING
THROUGHOUT
AMERICA.



TURBULENT
WAVES OF MANA
ARE ALSO SPREADING
THROUGHOUT THE
COUNTRY.



TO THINK
EVERYTHING SUNG
JINWOO SAID WAS
TRUE...



WHAT ARE WE
SUPPOSED TO DO
FROM NOW ON...?

HE'S NOT OUR
ONLY HUNTER.

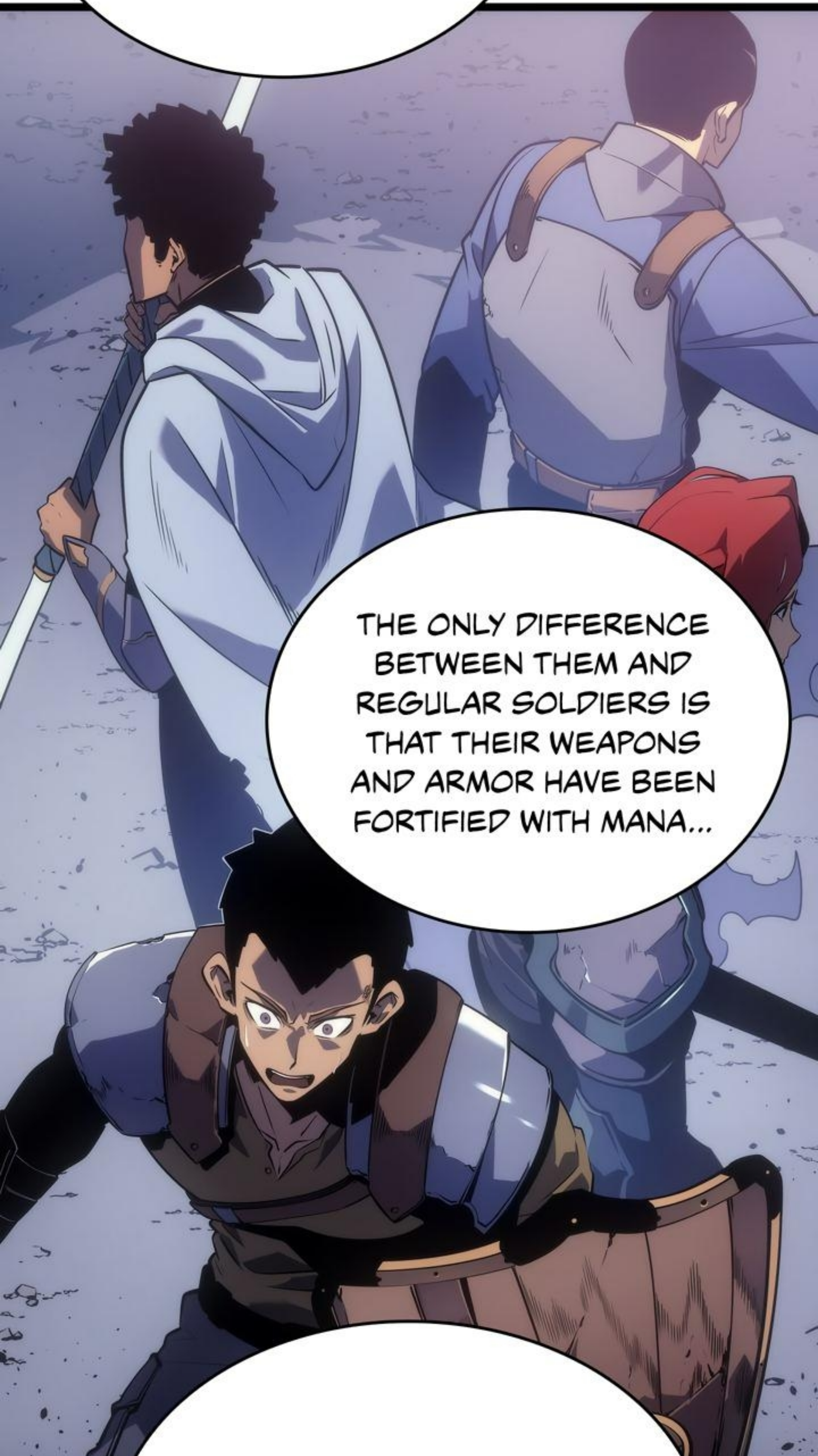


HUNTERS FROM
ALL ACROSS THE GLOBE
HAVE THROWN THEMSELVES
INTO BATTLE...



E-RANK AND S-RANK
HUNTERS ALIKE.

E-RANK HUNTERS
ARE ONLY SLIGHTLY
STRONGER THAN
ORDINARY PEOPLE.



THE ONLY DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THEM AND
REGULAR SOLDIERS IS
THAT THEIR WEAPONS
AND ARMOR HAVE BEEN
FORTIFIED WITH MANA...

SO THEY THEMSELVES
SHOULD KNOW HOW LITTLE
THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE ON
THE BATTLEFIELD.

THE C-RANK AND
D-RANK HUNTERS
ARE HARDLY ANY
BETTER OFF.

WHILE AN E-RANK
HUNTER HUNTS ONE BEAST,
A D-RANK HUNTER WILL
HUNT THREE,

AND A C-RANK
HUNTER WILL HUNT TEN.
THE DIFFERENCES ARE
MARGINAL.

NOT EVEN AN
S-RANK HUNTER
CAN DO MUCH.





YES, THEY'RE
CAPABLE OF WIPING
OUT A THOUSAND
BEASTS...

BUT THEY'LL MEET
THEIR DEMISE IN THE
END, AND JOIN THE
COUNTLESS STARS
IN THE NIGHT SKY.

HOWEVER...





WHEN THEY ALL
BECOME FALLING STARS
AND STREAK THROUGH
THE SKY LIKE A METEOR
SHOWER,

THAT'S WHEN
WE'LL BEGIN TO
SEE...





...THE
POSSIBILITY
OF A FUTURE.



THAT IS WHAT
PEOPLE CALL
"HOPE."




**SIR! WE'VE BEEN
TOLD THAT MR. SUNG
HAS SUCCESSFULLY
LURED THE MONARCH TO
AN UNINHABITED ISLAND
OFF THE COAST OF
JAPAN!**



**MR. SUNG ONCE
TOLD ME ABOUT A
VAST ISLAND TENS OF
KILOMETERS IN SIZE...**


**...WHERE
A TREMENDOUS
AMOUNT OF MANA WAS
RELEASED WHEN THE
GATE FULL OF GIANTS
COLLAPSED...**



EVEN IF THEY WERE
TO FIGHT AT FULL POWER
THERE, THE DAMAGE
WOULD BE KEPT TO
A MINIMUM.

IS THAT WHY
MR. SUNG'S BEEN
HIDING THERE ALL
THIS TIME?

SHOULD I DISPATCH
OUR HUNTERS THERE,
JUST IN CASE?



AREN'T ALL
THE S-RANK AND
UPPER-RANK HUNTERS
IN THE U.S. RIGHT
NOW?

WHO COULD WE
POSSIBLY SEND TO
THAT ISLAND?

ACTUALLY,
MAYBE WE COULD
SEND SOME E-RANK
HUNTERS.

DID YOU KNOW...

...THAT MR. SUNG
USED TO BE AN
E-RANK HUNTER?

WHAT?

I KNOW FOR
A FACT...

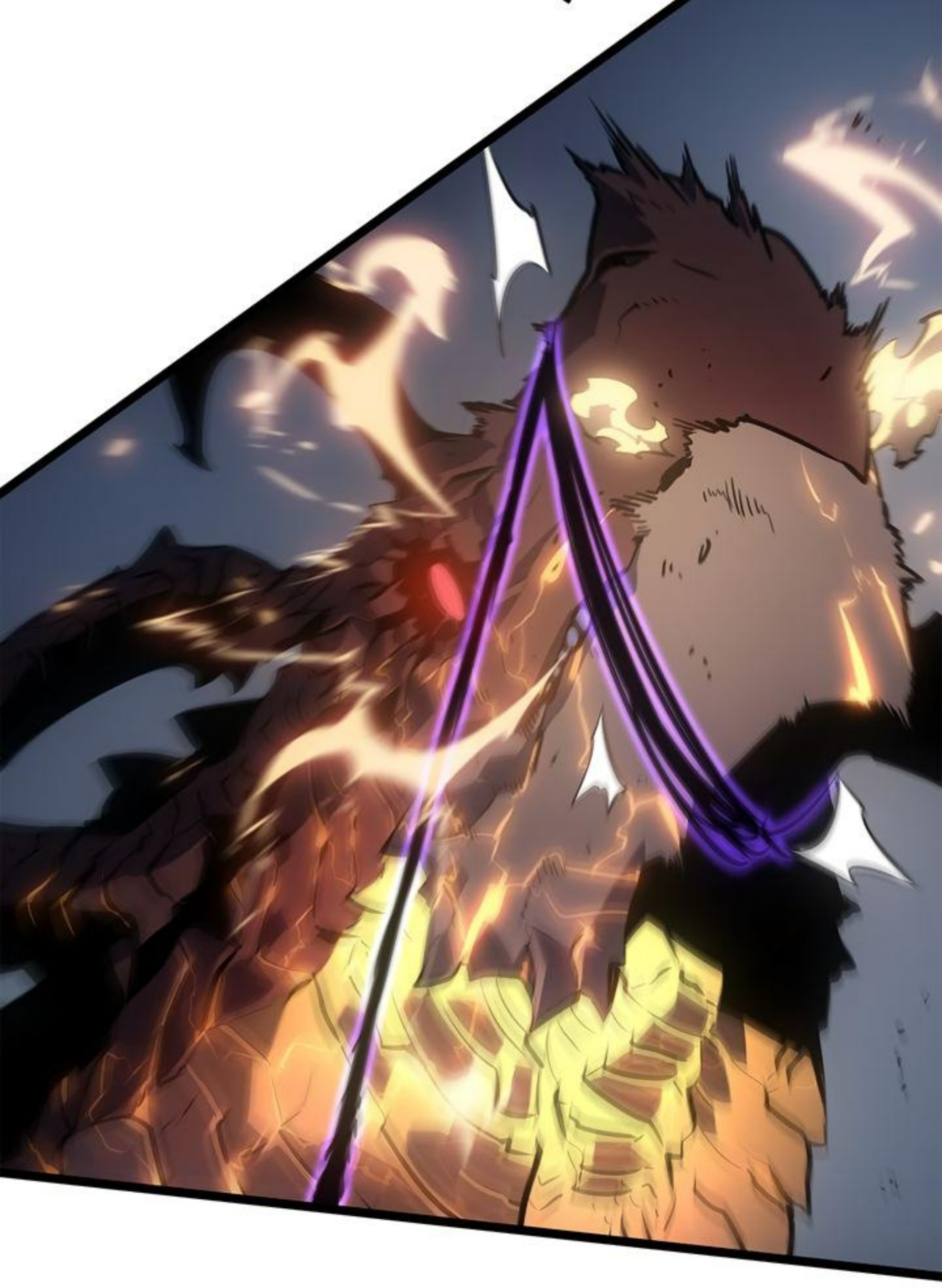


...THAT EVEN AN
E-RANK HUNTER CAN
BECOME A HERO.





PULL









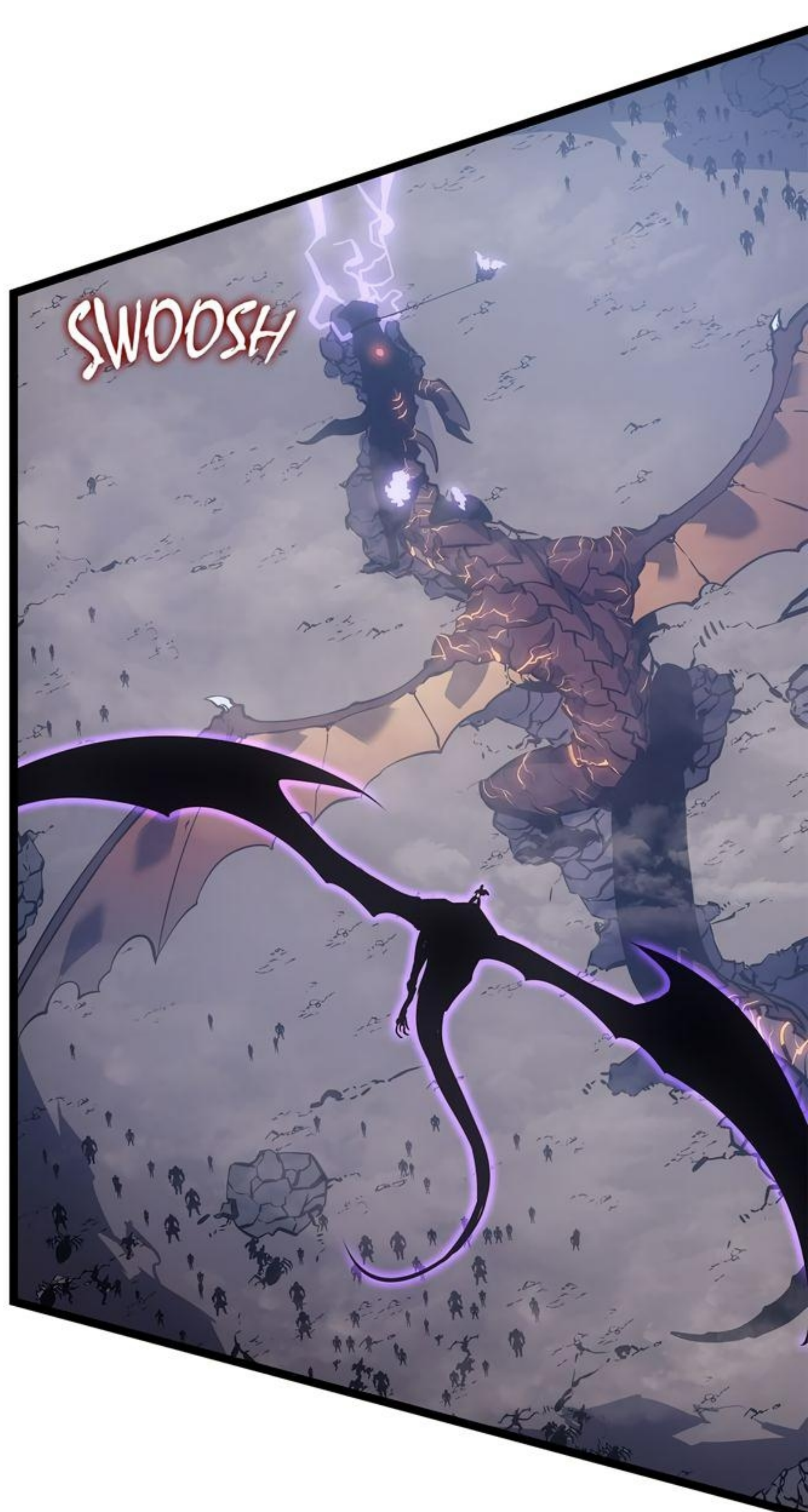






FWOOSH





OUR ATTACKS
SEEM TO BE
WORKING PRETTY
WELL.



...WHAT
A THRILL.



CRUSHING
MY FOES WITH A MUCH
LARGER ARMY
IS FUN,

BUT CRUSHING
THEM IN THE OPPOSITE
SITUATION IS QUITE
EXCITING AS WELL.



A dramatic illustration of a dragon's head and wings. The dragon is depicted in silhouette, with its wings spread wide. The background is filled with vibrant, streaky patterns of red and white, suggesting intense energy or fire. The overall composition is dynamic and powerful.

BEHOLD MY
TRUE POWER.

**THE DRAGON'S
FEARSOME ROAR**



IT'S THE DRAGON
KING'S FEARSOME
ROAR...

THERE'S NO WAY
I CAN COMMAND
MY SOLDIERS
LIKE THIS!



**CANCEL
SUMMON!**





COME BACK,
KAISEL!





BOOM

Whoosh

THIS IS MY
TRUE POWER.



BLOOD,
SCREAMS,
MADNESS, AND
ANNIHILATION...

THE INCARNATION
OF DESTRUCTION WOULDN'T
MIND SACRIFICING HIMSELF
FOR SUCH A VIOLENT WAR,

FOR IT IS
THE VERY REASON
WHY HE WAS
BORN.

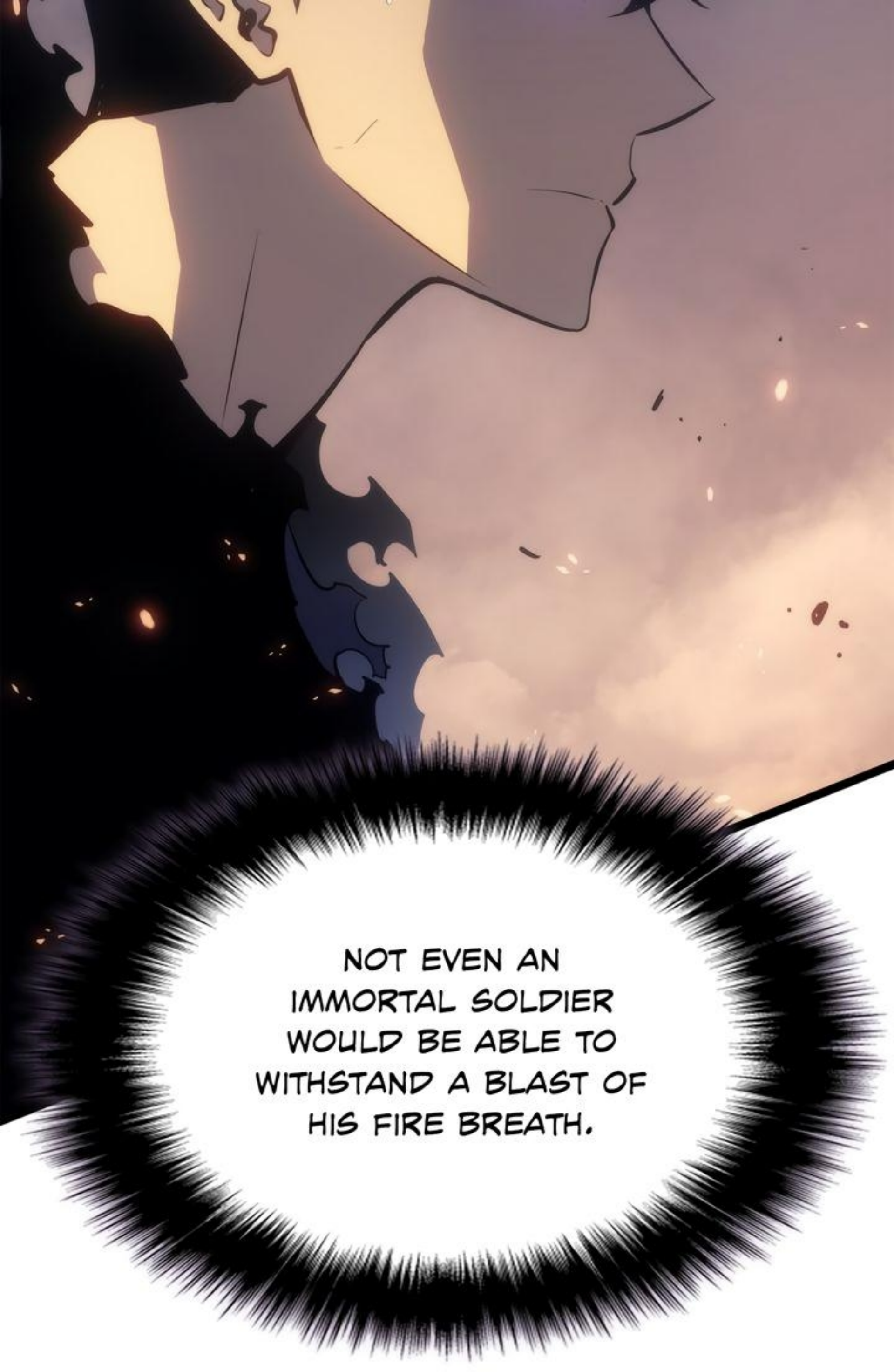


THAT IS WHO I AM.
I AM THE KING OF
BERSERK DRAGONS
AND THE MONARCH OF
DESTRUCTION,

ANTARES.

THIS LAND WAS
INFUSED WITH A
LOT OF MANA WHEN
THE KING OF GIANTS
DIED...


AND IT
STILL COULDN'T
HOLD UP...



NOT EVEN AN
IMMORTAL SOLDIER
WOULD BE ABLE TO
WITHSTAND A BLAST OF
HIS FIRE BREATH.



FSSHH



NO NEED TO
BE SO NERVOUS,
SHADOW MONARCH.

I COULD'VE
EASILY BROKEN FREE
WHEN YOU GRABBED
MY ARM.

BUT I CAME ALONG
WILLINGLY BECAUSE I
WAS QUITE IMPRESSED
BY HOW FAR YOU'VE
PUSHED ME.

AS A FELLOW
MONARCH, I WISH
TO HAVE A QUIET
CONVERSATION
WITH YOU.



YOU SHOULD BE
AWARE OF THIS ALREADY,
IF YOU'VE INHERITED THE
SHADOW MONARCH'S
MEMORIES...

OUR TRUE
ENEMY IS NOT HERE
ON THIS LAND, BUT
BEYOND THAT SKY.




THE RULERS'
ARMY.

THEIR ONE
AND ONLY MISSION
IS TO EXTERMINATE
THE MONARCHS, WHO
WERE BORN FROM THE
DARKNESS.

AND YOU ARE NO
EXCEPTION, SHADOW
MONARCH.





I WAS GOING TO
PREPARE TO FIGHT
AGAINST THEM AFTER
GETTING RID OF YOU...

...BUT SEEING
YOU FIGHT HAS
CHANGED MY
MIND.

YOU POSSESS
AN ABILITY
DIFFERENT FROM
ASHBORN'S.

AND IN THAT
ABILITY, I SEE OUR
GLORIOUS VICTORY.

IF YOU WISH
TO SAVE YOUR
FAMILY, SO BE IT.



IF YOU WISH
TO SAVE YOUR
COUNTRY, SO BE IT.

MY SOLDIERS AND
I WILL QUIETLY
TAKE OUR LEAVE...




...IF YOU WANT US
OFF THIS PLANET.

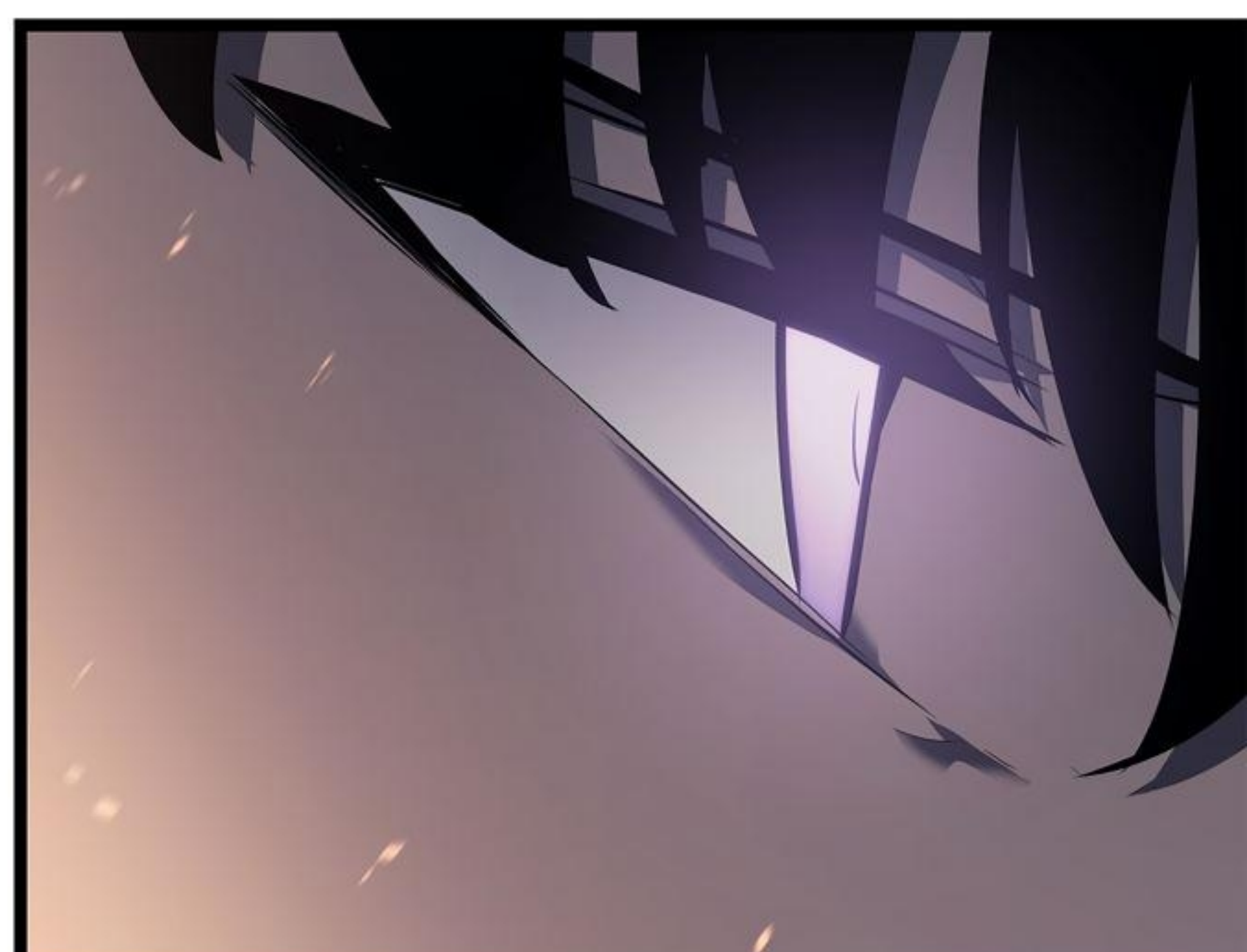


BECOME
THE MONARCH
OF THIS LAND.

NOT JUST THE
SMALL CASTLE ON
THAT HILL, BUT THE
ENTIRE PLANET.



YOU ARE MORE
THAN QUALIFIED
TO DO SO.



ALL YOU HAVE
TO DO...



...IS TAKE MY HAND.

IF WE JOIN
FORCES TO DEFEAT
THE RULERS' ARMY,



YOUR FAMILY,
YOUR COUNTRY, AND
THIS ENTIRE PLANET
WILL REGAIN PEACE
AND FREEDOM.

HOW DOES THAT
SOUND, SHADOW
MONARCH?



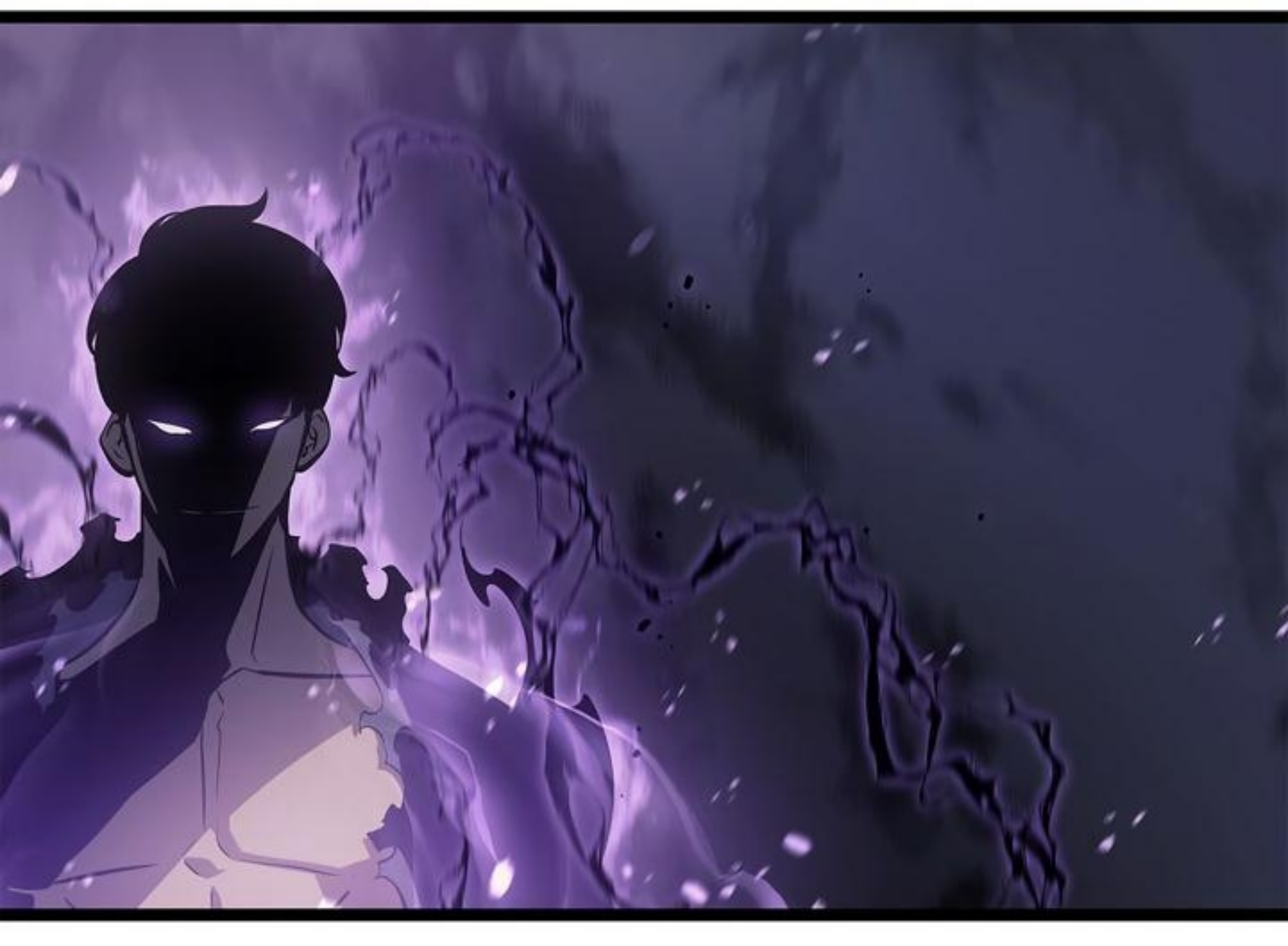
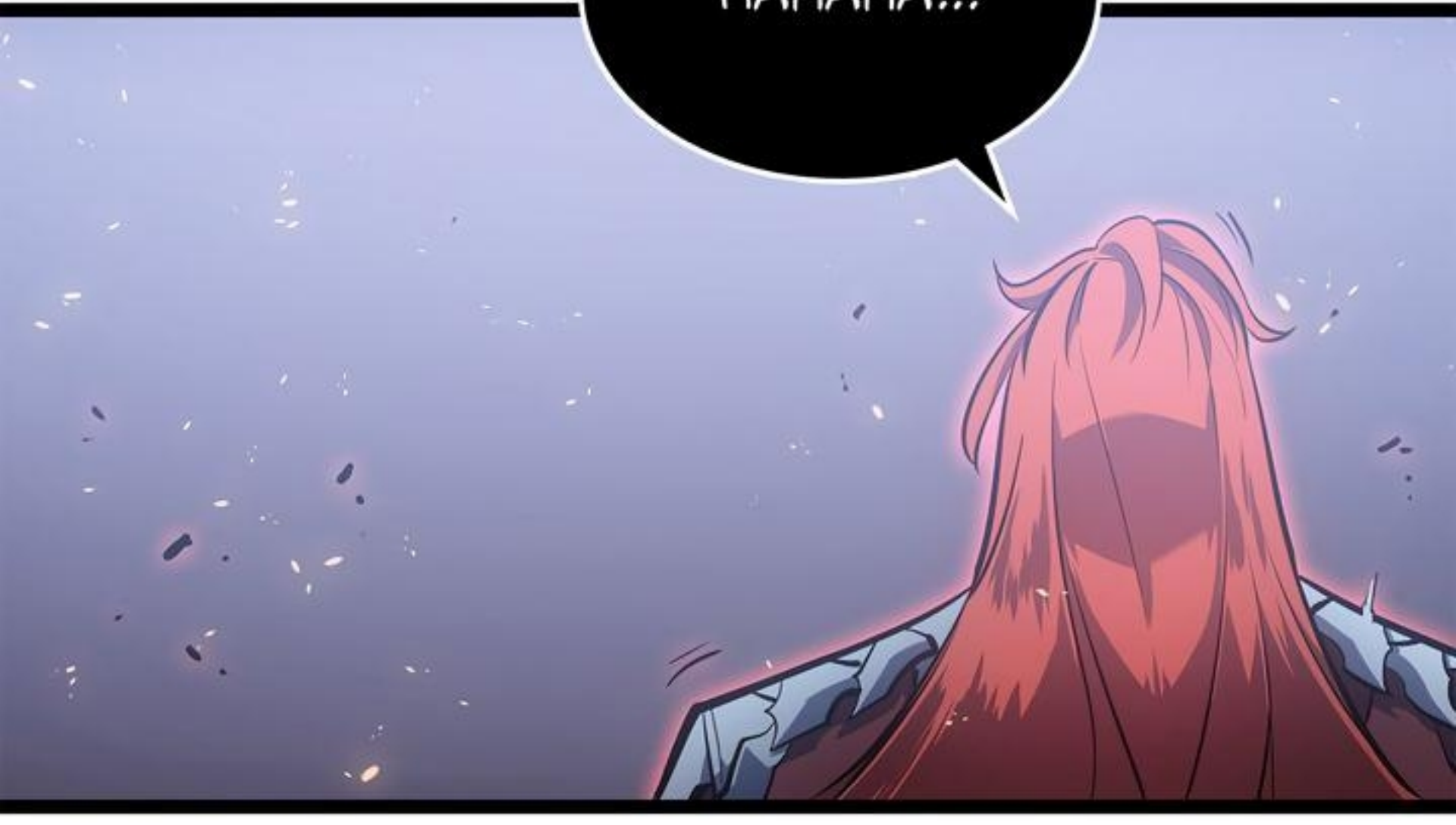
WILL YOU STAND
WITH ME?



YOU EXPECT ME TO
TRUST SOMEONE WHOSE
EYES ARE LOOKING AT
ME WITH BLOODLUST?



HAHAHA...



GUESS THERE'S
JUST NO HIDING IT.
WELL THEN, NO MORE
MERCY FOR YOU...





YOU'D BETTER BE
PREPARED FOR
THE FIGHT AHEAD,
SHADOW MONARCH.

To Be Continued...

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